



# St John's CE Primary School

Brook Lane, Walsall Wood, Walsall, WS9 9NA

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well.

We are really looking forward to all children returning next week. All the staff have remarked that they are really excited to welcome them all back so that we can get on with teaching all of the children face to face and resume some kind of normality. Before we do so though it would be remiss of me not to thank you for your incredible efforts over the last few weeks. We have certainly been really impressed with the work we have been receiving. So, thank you and a great big well done.

There is definitely an optimistic air within school as we feel that normal school life may not be too far from resuming. I was further encouraged this week to see the R rate declining even more in Walsall to 148.5. These are all positive signs. However, before we get too carried away with this news Public Health Walsall still state that there is a long way to go yet and that we all need to play our part. We have been reminded that schools fully reopening is just the first step out of lockdown and that we must still remain very cautious.

All the necessary safety precautions we had in place before Christmas will still be present from next week. This includes the 2m social distancing, staff wearing masks, frequent washing of hands, not mixing bubbles etc. We will continue with the same timings at the beginning and end of the day that we had before Christmas. The school gates will open just after 8-30 and won't close until just after 9-00, the routine that we all got into in the mornings worked brilliantly so we would very much like you all to stick to them. The afternoon is a little bit more complicated and harder for us all to retain our social distance. As such the children will leave at the following times:

**Nursery 2:45**

**Reception 2:45**

**Year 1 2:50**

**Year 2 2:55**

**Year 3 2:55**

**Year 4 3:00**

**Year 5 2:50**

**Year 6 2:50**





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It would be enormously beneficial to us all if you come on the time allocated and not before as this will help to ease congestion. Also, once you have picked up your children if you can leave straight away this will allow space for other parents to wait safely. Can I also encourage you to park further away from school so the children can safely exit through the gates please (especially the double gates by the bike sheds)? I have noticed that many of you are now wearing masks when you wait by the gates, as staff we really do appreciate your consideration here, thank you.

For the last few weeks staff have been taking lateral flow tests twice weekly. This has been another layer of reassurance for us all. The government have now made these tests available for all families with school aged children. The Government alongside Public Health Walsall are urging us to encourage you to use these tests for your own reassurance. These tests are for those not displaying any symptoms and can be obtained from the NHS Test and Trace sites in Walsall (pick up afternoons only) or from any Community testing sites in the borough. They are free of charge. Further details can be found on Walsall Council's website.

Despite this lengthy letter outlining safety measures I truly believe that better days are just around the corner. I sincerely hope that the R rate can come down so much that by the Summer we can have the confidence to resume some of our normal enjoyable events together as a community such as Sports Day or the Fayre (I can but dream!)

With fondest regards,

Mr Mills

